

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I understand that it is a violation of the federal election law for a large entity like Sinclair to engage in this kind of partisan politics. If, in addition, the statements aired in "Stolen Honor. Wounds that never Heal" are false or misleading, then the broadcast media are not serving the public, which is a condition for them to have a broadcast license in the first place.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.